

Doctor's vision earns Air Force award

BY TECH. SGT. LLOYD CONLEY
Space & Missile Times Editor

■The optometry flight commander of the 30th Aerospace Medicine Squadron has been recognized as the 1999 Col. Floyd M. Morris Air Force Optometrist of the Year.

The honor was bestowed on Maj. Parker Plante for the leadership and direction he has provided the optometry clinic since his arrival at Vandenberg, said Lt. Col. Sven Berg, 30th AMDS commander.

Plante has been assigned to Vandenberg less than two years, Berg said.

During his tenure here, the optometry clinic has received nothing but praise for the quality of care provided by him and his staff, Berg added.

Customer satisfaction is the result of providing all eligible patients access to optometric care, Berg said.

It's a monumental achievement, Plante said. "The number of people working on the optometry clinic staff has decreased by more than 60 percent since I arrived here in August 1998," he added. However,



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Plante's work at Vandenberg is "20/20."

customer demand and specialty services have steadily increased. The staff is very professional and they have handled the adversity well.

In addition to his regular duties, Plante is also an adjunct assistant professor of optometry at the University of California, Berkeley.

As a result of this association, he trains five optometric externs annually at the optometry clinic here.

Unlike interns, who work and study at the same geographic location, said Plante, externs work at a geographically separate location.

The separate location in this case is the Vandenberg optometry clinic, said Plante.

Each optometry extern works at Vandenberg for about two months gaining practical experience and knowledge under Plante's supervision.

The extern program is also a big help with the manpower crunch, Plante said.

Berg said the American Optometry Association has acknowledged Plante's expertise by presenting him the Optometric Recognition Award for 10 consecutive years.

These accomplishments place Plante in the top five percent of optometrist's nation-wide, he added.

The Vandenberg community is truly fortunate to have the services of a person of his caliber, Berg said.

Local media converges on Vandenberg

BY STAFF SGT. REBECCA BONILLA
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■Members of the central coast media arrived at Vandenberg last week before they took off on a 90-day deployment to Saudi Arabia.

Actually, journalists, broadcasters and cameramen from 10 media outlets came to Vandenberg June 15 to participate in Media Day 2000. The 14-member group spent 10 hours pushing through a deployment line, watching a live-fire demonstration, eating meals-ready-to-eat, flying to south base in Hueys and being bused through three space launch complex tours.

Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander, invited the media out so they could get a taste of what life is really like for the members of Team Vandenberg who serve their country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"To a military member, the most

important aspect of a deployment is dependent care," said Master Sgt. Ty Foster, 30th Space Wing Public Affairs superintendent. "We want to know before we get off the ground, that our families are going to be taken care of while we're gone."

In order to drive that point home for the Central Coast media representatives, the group was pushed through an actual deployment processing line with their final destination set for Saudi Arabia.

Representatives from legal, the clinic, the chapel, finance and pass and registration briefed the deploying troops on everything from wills and immunizations to financial and religious needs.

They were given 90 seconds to process the line and move on to the briefing room. There, the media members were

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STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

1st Lt. Willie Rudd, 30th Services Squadron, Combat Support Flight commander, gives Nora Wallace, Santa Barbara News-Press reporter, guidance on opening a meal-ready-to-eat. Media Day guests enjoyed the opportunity to "taste" what it's like to be deployed.



AIRMAN JESSICA RAMOS

Below-the-zone stripes

Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Paul Krim, 30th SW command chief master Sergeant, pin senior airman stripes on Airman 1st Class Rebecca O'Connor 30th SW. Two other airmen were selected for BTZ promotions: Airman 1st Class Raylene Schneider, 614th Space Operations Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Amber Ruiz, 30th SW.

AETC commander says goodbye

By GEN. LLOYD NEWTON
Commander, AETC

My time as commander of Air Education and Training Command is coming to an end. Even more momentous for me, my service as an active-duty airman in the world's greatest aerospace force is also coming to a close.

I feel an immense sense of gratitude and appreciation for the men and women with whom I have served. What I will miss the most will be the people of the Air Force; their camaraderie, the sense of team, and the closeness of community I've found no matter where I've been stationed. I think this support for one another sets the Air Force and the military in general, apart from all other organizations.

But, let me add that I've been very gratified to see the strong and mutually supportive community relationships enjoyed by our bases. As a former wing commander and as AETC commander, I am truly grateful for the strong support, warmth and consideration shown by our neighboring communities.

Having served in the First Command for more than three years, I have come to realize that how well we lay the foundation of training and education will determine the quality and well being of the Air Force for at least the next three decades.

We in AETC have faced many extraordinary challenges and achieved some remarkable accomplishments. We doubled pilot production, which along with retention incentives and other measures, has stabilized the pilot shortage.

We also built a significantly enhanced basic military training course to include more training in a field environment and more physical rigor. These changes will better prepare our airmen for today's expeditionary environment and, along with our Aerospace Basic Course for new officers, will form the groundwork for building the Air Force of the future.

Challenges will continue and I'm sure you will overcome them successfully.

Recruiting looms as one of the primary concerns facing the Air Force today. I am extremely confident our



"We need to pay attention to those who are already on board, working hard and taking up the slack. People are our most important asset."

Gen. Lloyd Newton
Commander, AETC

initiatives to increase recruiter presence throughout America, and expand advertising and other outreach programs will turn the corner on this difficult challenge.

Improving retention is the other half of our challenge throughout the Air Force. We need to pay attention every day to those who are already on board working hard and taking up the slack.

Quality of life issues and mentoring of our experienced airmen are important goals for all of us. They will have long-

term, positive effects on our recruiting needs. Our current recruiting and retention challenges underscore the view I have long held, people are absolutely our most important resource. We will continue to need your help to recruit quality airmen for the force.

When I began this journey 34 years ago, I could not have known the tremendous richness of my road ahead. My early background was not in a military environment. I could not possibly have charted such an amazing course had it not been for the many leaders and mentors who took the time and effort to teach me, to trust in me and to give me a chance to succeed.

My most earnest professional thanks go to those advisers and role models. They forged in me the desire to create a leadership environment where all of our people are treated as full members of the team, can grow to their full potential and be rewarded for their contributions. I hope I have repaid their faith and trust by serving as a worthy mentor to those who follow me in the years to come.

SPACE&MISSILETIMES

Col. Steve Lanning
30th Space Wing Commander

Maj. John Cherry
Director of Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Chris Watt
Chief, Internal Information

Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Conley
Editor
Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wallis
Photographer

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Vandenberg AFB Public Affairs Office. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are Air Force photos.

Publication deadline is 4:30 p.m. every Friday. The Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submissions for style and space. Send submissions to: 30SW/PA, 747 Nebraska Ave., Room A-105, VAFB, CA 93437; via fax at DSN 276-8303 or commercial (805) 606-8303.

Fatal accident sends lesson to all airmen

AIRMAN DECEMBER BARCUS
Minot AFB, N.D.

My name is December Barcus, and I am assigned to Minot Air Force Base, N.D. I am sending this letter from the Ward County Jail. Last August, I was involved in a drinking and driving accident that resulted in one death and four serious injuries. I was the driver with four passengers, and I was over the legal limit for driving while intoxicated. I was also under 21.

The accident was not the result of excess speed or purposely erratic driving. I was neither stumbling nor slurring.

I took my eyes off the road for a moment, lost control of the car, was unable to regain control, and in the blink of an eye our car left the road and rolled over. One friend was killed and the three others, also airmen, were injured-including two who broke their backs. I almost lost my eye, and I had 105 stitches in my face, head and ear. I also broke my neck in two places.

I write this letter because I think it is important to get out the message that drinking and driving was wrong and illegal. Still, like many airmen I know, I felt I could "handle my alcohol" and that I would never have an accident.

I had a successful Air Force career and was always thankful for the



Airmen 1st Class Anthony Garcia (right) and Benjamin Nally, 30th Security Forces Squadron, demonstrate the one-legged-stand portion of the field sobriety test used by law enforcement agencies, including security forces, to detect drunk drivers.

opportunities it provided me. Now, I have been convicted of negligent homicide, drinking and driving and underage drinking. I will be spending the better part of the next year in jail. Long after the trial has passed and I am released from jail, I will have to live with the fact that my friend is dead because of me.

The scene at the accident is one that plays in my head like a nightmare that does not stop. Just moments earlier,

we were having a good time, singing along to the radio and then in a second my friends were all laying around the overturned car.

The whole reason I came into the Air Force was to change my life for the better. Now, my friend is dead, I have a criminal conviction and I'll be haunted by this accident forever. All because of a stupid decision I made. I will never be able to express how sorry I am.

The only thing I can do is devote my

life to getting this message out.

If I can prevent just one person from drinking and driving, this letter was worth writing. I was a normal airman with a promising career; one you would find at any base in the Air Force. If you don't believe something like this can happen to you, read this letter again. Once, I was you.

Vandenberg airmen learn hard lessons

■ Since January, nine military members assigned to Vandenberg AFB have been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. However, none were on Vandenberg at the time they were caught, said Tech. Sgt. Michael Jelmo, 30th Security Forces Squadron reports and analysis section.

Military members caught DUI off base are normally prosecuted by the law enforcement agency affecting the arrest, said Capt. Jennie Buckland, 30th Space Wing military justice. Punishment can range from jail time to a fine, she added. In addition, once members return to their home station they can expect administrative action from their military units as a result of the DUI.

Two of the Vandenberg members were arrested for DUI in another state, Jelmo added.

Security forces NCO best in AFSPC

Technical sergeant sets example for SFS airmen

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ A technical sergeant from Vandenberg is Air Force Space Command's top security forces noncommissioned officer of the year.

AFSPC announced the annual security forces awards during a banquet June 15 at Peterson AFB, Colo.

Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Brown Jr., 30th Security Forces Squadron quality control evaluator, was named the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for security forces in AFSPC.

As a quality control evaluator, Brown provides a realistic evaluation program that includes the full range of security forces duties. The evaluation consists of a written exam then an exercise that puts people in a scenario which allows Brown to evaluate their actions and decisions.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Tech. Sgt. Brown, is apprehend by Airman 1st Class John Lucas, 30th SFS entry controller, during the airman's evaluation.

"I was shocked to have won," Brown said. "I know I had done a lot throughout the year but you never know how you measure up to everyone else."

Brown, who arrived here a year ago, was very active in the honor guard during his previous assignment at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo. While there, he received an Air Force Achievement

Award for 200 hours of dedicated service to the honor guard.

"I'm involved in the community and I like to take the initiative on duty to accomplish the mission," the master sergeant-select said. "I like the interaction with people in my job and the ability to help someone," he added.

Helping is a quality he used when

assisting a woman who had hit a deer with her vehicle on San Antonio Road West this past January. "I had to calm her down and explain to her that everything would be fine," he said.

His 17 years as a security forces airman has younger airman looking up to Brown.

"Tech. Sgt. Brown's knowledge of the Air Force, security forces procedures and regulations is an asset," said Airman 1st Class Kim Dove, 30th SFS desk sergeant. "You can ask him a question about a regulation and he can recite the information to you."

"He also knows the appropriate time to discipline you when you've done something wrong. He does it without embarrassing you in front of the entire flight," Dove said.

The young troops aren't the only ones looking at Brown.

"Tech Sgt. Brown is a solid, remarkable manager and leader," said Lt. Col. Michael Prucey, 30th SFS commander. "He is untiring and has met the audacious task with unyielding ability and performed exceptionally, whether at Vandenberg or F.E. Warren."

Communications commander receives OPSEC award

BY TECH. SGT. BUZZ RITCHIE
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ A new squadron commander at Vandenberg is well known at the Pentagon for his work educating leaders in the Department of Defense about the cyber threats facing the nation's military.

Lt. Col. Bradley Ashley's work as the lead DOD action officer for a study of the military's internet vulnerabilities earned him the National Operations Security Award for individual achievement for government employees at a ceremony in Monterey, Calif. The competition included officials from the DOD, National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, FBI, and Department of Energy.

"This is one of the greatest moments in my career," said the new 30th Communications Squadron commander. "Personally, it's a great feeling to know that my efforts helped save the lives of war-fighters and their family members. That feeling is hard to top."

Ashley led the study while assigned to the Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems Directorate for the Pentagon's Joint Staff. He researched and developed a briefing on internet vulnerabilities that was seen by the deputy secretary of defense, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the service chiefs, dozens of general officers, and hundreds of military members.



STAFF SGT. PAMELA TAUBMAN

Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander, presents Lt. Col. Bradley Ashley the National OPSEC Award.

"We also did a training video along with the Secret Service on the vulnerabilities of too much information on the web," Ashley said.

As a result of his study into the threats facing DOD assets through the Internet, the deputy secretary of defense endorsed a new policy affecting U.S. military websites worldwide. The Information Vulnerability and the World Wide Web memorandum required the removal of sensitive information from military web pages worldwide, a thorough security

review with the help of a variety of agencies, and a revision of existing DOD worldwide web policy.

"In our zeal to have the sharpest web page, DOD has gone too far and, in some cases, provides too much valuable information to friends and enemies alike," said Lt. Gen. Jack Woodward, currently the director, communications and information, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; commander, Air Force Communications and Information Center; and deputy chief information officer, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. "The Internet provides an array of very user-friendly search tools that make it simple to collect and analyze this data."

"Ashley has single-handedly done more to improve OPSEC than any person I have seen in my 24 years of government service," Woodward added.

TV PRODUCER LOOKING FOR AIRMEN

■ Producer Arnold Shapiro is producing five videos titled "How the Military Changed My Life," and is looking for young people, 17 to 28 years old, currently serving in the Air Force. Anyone who has an inspiring story about how the military service has enriched or positively changed their life, or anyone who would like to suggest someone else's story, call the 30th Space Wing Public Affairs Office at 606-3595, for more information.

NEWS

BRIEFS

JULY 3 AIR FORCE FAMILY DAY

Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, directed the observance of July 3 as a family day. The Air Force will go to minimum manning, duty permitting.

DET 1, 22ND SOPS CHANGES COMMAND

Lt. Col. John Williams, 22nd Space Operations Squadron commander, will preside over the Detachment 1, 22nd SOPS change-of-command ceremony Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Vandenberg Tracking Station. Maj. James Maestas will relinquish command to Capt. Erik Eliassen. Call Nonie Valentine at 605-7322 for more information.

SECURITY MANAGERS HOLD MEETING

The Unit Security Managers meeting is scheduled to be held at the Vandenberg Center Tuesday at 10 a.m. The USM or a representative is required to attend. All questions can be directed to the 30th Security Forces Squaron information security section at 606-4615.

532ND TRS WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

The 532nd Training Squadron change-of-command ceremony is June 30 at 10 a.m. in building 8250, air launch cruise missile training high bay. Lt. Col. Steven Wagner will relinquish command to Lt. Col. John Anderson. Call Capt. Timothy Lincoln at 606-2724 for more information.

DORMITORY COUNCIL HOLDS MEETING

The Top Life Dormitory Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Vandenberg Center. Dormitory residents, commanders and supervisors are invited to attend. The Top Life Dormitory Council will hear any ideas or comments related to dormitory improvements, renovations, and dormitory activities. Call Airman Carl Ross at 606-4199 with questions or comments.

30TH MEDICAL GROUP CLOSSES FOR HOLIDAY

The 30th Medical Group will be closed July 2 to 4. People in need of emergency care should

call 911 or report directly to the emergncy room. For acute healthcare needs call Healthwise at 1-888-252-3299.

COMISSARY CLOSSES FOR HOLIDAY

The comissary and mini-comm will be closed July 4. The mini-comm will be open July 3, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PHASE SEVEN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

The following roads will be closed until June 1, 2001, for phase seven construction of the new military family housing project:

Ocean View Boulevard from Juniper Street to Korina Street;

Dogwood Street between Ocean View Boulevard and extending to Arbor Street;

Elm Street from Fir Street to Ironwood Street;

Hemlock Street from Ocean View Boulevard to Elm Street.

For information or questions, call Robert Griswold at 606-2048.

DON'T REMOVE LANDSCAPE MATERIAL

Military family housing residents are asked not to remove flowers, shrubs, trees and landscape materials from vacant homes or vacant mobile home spaces. In some cases, the vacating occupant has not had their final inspection and removing these items increases the person's workload. Also, plants left by an occupant and accepted by the housing inspector become government property. Removing the property at that point is considered theft of government property. Missing or removed items will be reported to the 30th Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk. For more information, call Earnest Gilless at 606-3795.

RESIDENTS GET WRITE-UPS FOR UNCUT GRASS

Housing grounds inspectors periodically inspect the appearance of military family housing areas. Grass mowing should be accomplished as necessary to maintain a neat appearance. Considerations for things like wet weather are allowed. Discrepancy notices will be issued to occupants not meeting standards. For more information, call the service contracts at 606-1936.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Senior Airmen Jonathan Boyer (left), Marcus Jankowski (center) and Airman 1st Class Romeo Orio of the Vandenberg AFB Honor Guard, fold a flag at the funeral service of retired assistant Vandenberg Fire Protection Flight Chief, Jim Julian. The service was June 7. Julian retired in 1983 after 35 years of service.

Senate passes FY01 defense bill

■ WASHINGTON— The Senate passed its Fiscal 2001 National Defense Appropriations Bill June 13. The bill funds a 3.7 percent pay raise and other quality of life initiatives.

The bill passed 95-3 and allots \$287.4 billion in spending authority. This is \$3.1 billion above the president's budget request and \$1.1 billion below the House's version. The House passed its FY01 defense appropriations bill last month.

"This bill meets all personnel, readiness, training and quality of life priorities for the armed services, said Sen. Ted Stevens, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. "We have fully funded the pay raise and new authorized recruiting and retention benefits. All estimated costs of contingency operations for 2001 in Kosovo, Bosnia and Southwest Asia are included in the bill."

Highlights of the Senate bill include:

- A total of \$160 million to enhance basic allowance for housing and reduce

servicemembers' out-of-pocket housing expenses;

- an increase of \$4.5 billion over current fiscal year spending to fund readiness, training and depot support programs;

- funds totaling \$2.18 billion for 12 C-17 aircraft;

- funds to procure 10 F-22 Raptors;

- an additional \$183 million to buy six F-16 Fighting Falcons;

- funds to advance procurement for one JSTARS aircraft;

- an additional \$137 million for the retirees' pharmacy benefit;

- \$150 million for National Guard and Reserve equipment; and

- an additional \$35.4 million for Air Guard operations and maintenance programs

The House and Senate will next meet in a joint committee to resolve differences in their defense appropriations bills.

Space Command's proactive Y2K program recognized for excellence

■ PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo — Last year's Y2K public affairs program by NORAD, U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command has been recognized by the Public Relations Society of America with a prestigious Silver Anvil Award of Excellence for crisis communications.

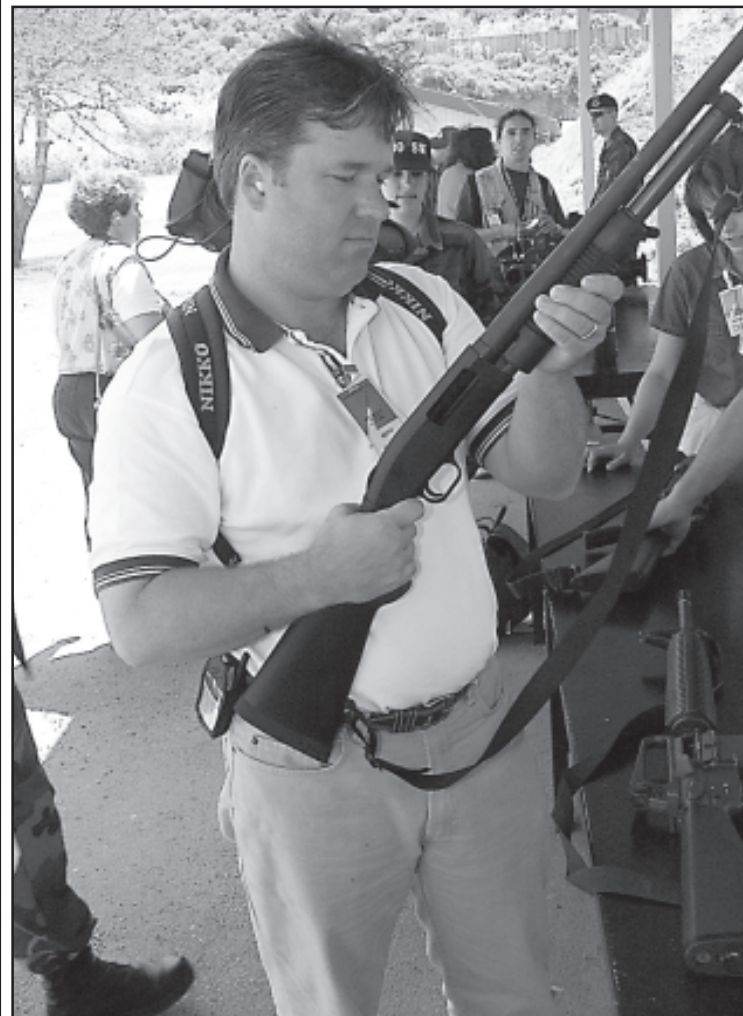
The Y2K program culminated in four days of continuous media

coverage from Dec. 27 to Jan.

1. Forty-eight international and national news agencies based themselves at Cheyenne Mountain and the joint U.S./Russian-manned Center for Y2K Strategic Stability during the run-up to Y2K.

Colorado Springs became a major focal point for media coverage and updates during the Y2K rollover.

"We are extremely proud of this high level award for our Y2K public affairs program," said Air Force Col. Don Black, Public Affairs director for all three commands during the Y2K rollover. "Our commands did tremendous work in preparing for Y2K and we went to great lengths to reassure the public of our preparedness and confidence in our people and our systems."



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Keith Carls, Fox 11 News, holds an unloaded weapon after combat arms training and maintenance members cleared them for media handling.

MEDIA From Page 1

briefed on local and destination weather conditions and terrorist and criminal activity at the deployed location. They were then shown how to don a gas mask in less than nine seconds.

From the deployment processing center, media members were bused to the 30th Security Forces Squadron's Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Range for a live-fire demonstration. There, Senior Airman Nate Baloy, pumped 120 rounds of 5.56 ball ammunition through his M-16 rifle in less than 10 seconds. He moved on to the M-16 GAU, the M-249 assault rifle and the M-60 machine gun.

"I never realized quite how easy it is to just pick up a weapon like this and start firing," said Danielle Garcia, KCOY-12 reporter.

Lunch for the reporters and cameramen, had a distinctively deployed flair to it. Members of the 30th Services Squadron were on hand to pass out MREs and teach everyone how to use the heating units in the updated

version of the 1960s C-rations.

"There's one huge difference between today's MREs and C-rations," said Lt. Col. Brad Peck, 30th Services Squadron commander. "As part of the effort to become a healthier force, there are no longer cigarettes provided with the meal."

After lunch, media members were briefed on Team Vandenberg's Aerospace Show 2000, set to take place October 14 and 15. Then they were whisked away to south base on two of the 76th Helicopter Squadron's UH-1N helicopters.

After a quick tour and briefing on SLCs 3, 4 and 6 and an environmental briefing, 14 road-weary travelers got back on the bus for a final windshield tour of the base as they headed out to the main gate.

"I saw such a sense of pride in your troops today," Oswaldo Borraz, KMEX-TV reporter, said to Lanning. "The men and women really believe in what they are doing for their country and now I too, have a much greater idea of what you're doing out here."

AAFES awards AT&T \$700 million contract

■DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and AT&T announced Tuesday that AT&T's consumer services unit was awarded a seven-year, \$700 million contract to provide a broad spectrum of communications services to 7.5 million service members and their families worldwide.

The contract, effective July 1, grants AT&T the sole concession on Army and Air Force bases domestically and overseas to market residential long distance and (where available) local service, operate public payphones and offer AT&T calling cards and prepaid calling cards.

AT&T will also provide international telecom services to Army and Air Force personnel stationed on the front lines, such as in Kosovo and Bosnia. Also, AT&T has "first rights" to provide new services under the contract including Internet access and broadband services.

AAFES will partner with AT&T to market products and services through online and other new media channels, as well as through local channels such as base and post exchanges. As technology advances, AT&T will work with AAFES to ensure future services are introduced to AAFES customers quickly and economically.

"AT&T can deliver the kind of high-quality, custom-tailored and affordably priced communi-

cations services that are critical to our service men and women," said AAFES contracting officer, Michelle Priester. "This long-term partnership will allow AAFES and AT&T to deliver the services needed today while anticipating those that can improve the quality of life for our personnel in the future."

"We're very pleased that AAFES has chosen AT&T to offer such a broad spectrum of personal communications services," said Howard McNally, senior vice president of AT&T Consumer Services. "It underscores that the armed forces are committed to attracting the most technologically sophisticated men and women to the military, and can count on AT&T to help them."

"No one understands the needs of military customers as well as we do, and no one is in a better position to serve their communications needs anywhere in the world," said Bill Baumann, military marketing director of AT&T Consumer Services. "That's why our surveys show 70 percent of military personnel prefer AT&T as their telecommunications provider."

AAFES will return a percentage of the telecommunications revenue raised through the AT&T contract to the military community to fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs on bases and posts worldwide.

"Best Value" program identifies best prices

Program helps military shoppers find bargains

By BONNIE POWELL

Defense Commissary Agency Marketing

■FORT LEE, Va. — What's in a name? For some people it's everything. For others, price is the most important factor in grocery-buying decisions.

The Defense Commissary Agency is kicking off a program to make the job of bargain hunting much easier for military shoppers, and still make sure customers are getting a quality product.

Starting in July, shoppers will see "Best Value Item" signs at store entrances and on commissary shelves.

"The Best Value program identifies items that are the lowest price at the name brand quality our customers expect," said Gary Duell, manager, Marketing Business Unit, DeCA. "Best value items will be clearly marked with shelf signs."

Best Value prices will also be lower than premium quality store brands sold at retail grocers. Commissary store directors will be working at installations to guarantee military shoppers get the best prices.

The program is in response to customer demand for more price savings. The commissary system is making an effort to encourage single shoppers, military families and retirees on

fixed incomes to take greater advantage of their benefit and "some of those customers have indicated that saving money is their number one priority," said Duell.

Retail grocers often have "store" or "private label" brands, which can vary in quality and price. Commissaries, by regulation, are only permitted to carry "name brands" or brands that are widely available across the U.S.

The Best Value program won't apply to every size and type of grocery item carried by commissaries, according to Duell. In addition, the item list may change frequently, according to market conditions.

"To kick off the program, we're focusing on approximately 50 popular products in the most frequently purchased sizes," said Duell. "If a customer comes to the store to buy a 30-count box of garbage bags and is mainly concerned with getting top quality at the lowest price available, the shopper can simply look for the "Best Value" sign. That price will be lower than the exact size on that item sold by any other brand carried in the commissary — or in any other local grocery store.

"We're working hard to help our shoppers save money," said Duell. "We already average 27 percent savings overall, but we want even more for our customers. Surveys show that the commissary is ranked among the top two benefits and the agency's job is to make that benefit even more valuable."



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Sound of music

Maestro Rodolfo Fernandez and the Lompoc Pops perform for Fathers Day at the Pacific Coast Club Sunday.

23 **FRI**

The Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month committee is holding it's APA

banquet Friday at 6 p.m. at the Pacific Coast Club. Attendees will experience Japanese drums pounding, hula girls swaying, tinkling sticks tapping, Korean and Thai dancing, and much more! The menu consists of roasted pig, rice, oriental salad, and teriyaki chicken. Susan Oki Mollway, will be the guest speaker. She is the first Asian woman appointed as a federal judge in the United States. Cost is \$13.50 per person. Call Mike Funtilla at 606-0083, 1st Lt. Dee Dee Vasquez at 606-0875, or Sony Apilado at 606-1936 for tickets.

27 **TUE**

A business etiquette class will be offered Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Family

Support Center. Contact Josie Vasquez at 606-0039 to register.

The **Single Parents Support Group** is scheduled to meet Tuesday at the Pacific Coast Club from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The informal group is for single parents either active duty or civilian. For information, call Linda Bastine at 606-9958. Registration is not required.

A **microfit assessment** can give an accurate assessment of physical condition. Assessments include body weight, body fat, blood pressure,

flexibility, cardiovascular conditioning, absolute strength, dynamic strength, and a health-risk appraisal. Call 606-2221 an appointment.

JULY
4 **TUE**

The 30th Services Squadron and Non-commissioned Officer Association are hosting a **4th of July barbecue celebra-**

tion from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 4 on the lawn beside the bowling center. There will be fun and games for all ages. It is open to all Vandenberg people. For more information on this event call Staff. Sgt. Jessyca Castillo at 606-3832.

An **Old Fashioned fourth of July celebration** will be held in Lompoc July 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building at the end of south "H" street. All base members and their families are invited by the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce. There will be a barbecue lunch, old-fashioned ice cream social, music, kids face painting and a parade. Beginning at 5 p.m. in Huyck Stadium, the Travis AFB Galaxy Band will perform the opening act prior to evening fireworks presented by Lompoc Parks and Recreation. Volunteers are needed to assist with set up and cleanup. For more information, call the chamber office at 736-4567.

AUG
5 **SAT**

A **Woomera reunion** is scheduled for Aug. 5 by the alumni of Joint Defense Facility,

Hurrungar and the Village of Woomera, South Australia. The reunion will be at Peterson AFB, Colo. For more information, call Paul Chester at (719) 567-9016.



At the Movies

Tonight

Where the Heart Is

(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Held Up

(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

Battlefield Earth

(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

June 30

Screwed

(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

July 1

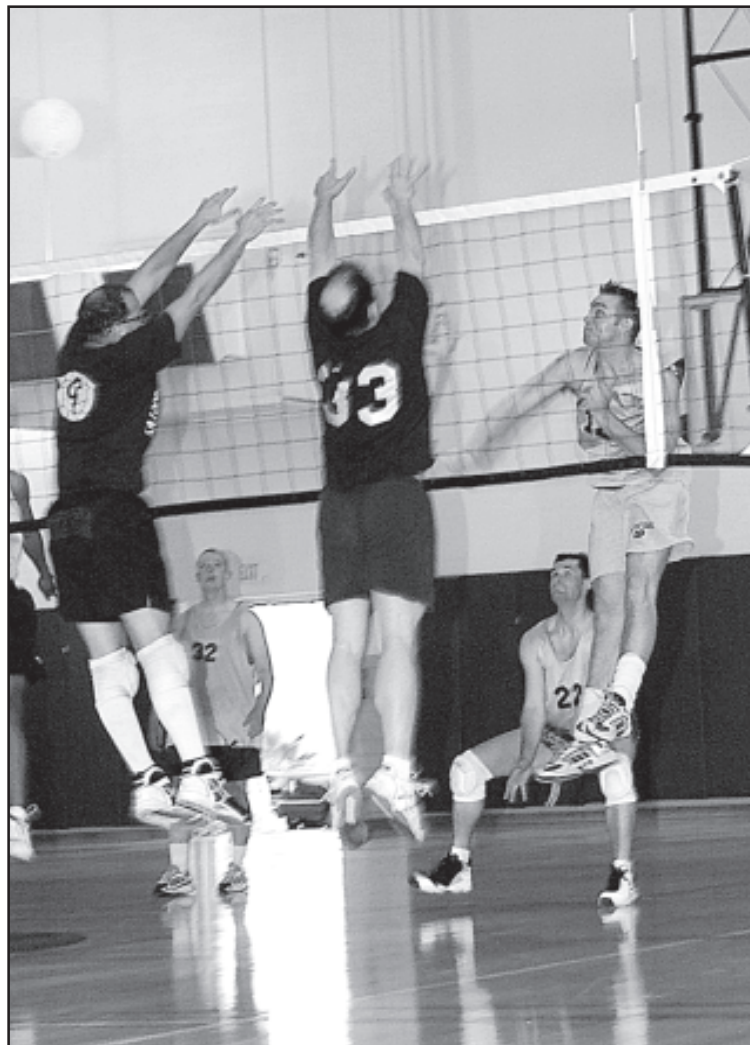
Gladiator

(R) 7:30 p.m.

July 2

Gladiator

(R) 7:30 p.m.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Todd Burch and George May, 576th Filght Test Squadron, attempt to block a spike from Joshua Brotemarkle, 30th Security Forces Squadron. Chris Anderson and Jeremy Storar, 30th SFS, prepare for the return during the volleyball championships June 15.

Cops end 576th reign as volleyball champs

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The 30th Security Forces Squadron reigns as the intramural base volleyball champion for 2000.

After playing a hard fought battle with 2nd Space Launch Squadron in a semi-final round match, the 30th SFS turned around and played the 576th Flight Test Squadron in six straight games June 15 at the fitness center for the championship.

The double-elimination tournament included the top eight teams from the regular season. The cops were ranked as the fourth seed while the 576th came into the tournament as the top seed.

Coming into the championship match, the 576th was undefeated while 30th SFS had

one loss during the tournament.

Security forces took the opening championship match two games to one, 15-13, 6-15 and 15-12, forcing a second match to determine the champion.

In the final match, the 576th jumped on the cops in the first game 15-2, over-powering the tiring 30th SFS. The 30th SFS came alive during the next two games prevailing 15-8 and 15-13 to win the championship.

"The 576th showed great integrity and sportsmanship in the final moments of the match," said Chris Anderson, 30th SFS. "The 576th called a penalty on themselves which the referee did not see. This led to the winning point."

The loss ended the 576th's three-year reign as the base volleyball champion.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Hang time

Cal Peterson pulls up for a shot over Paul Perez Jr. during the father son basketball tournament Saturday at the fitness center. Paul Perez Sr. watches the action. Peterson and his father Calvin won the 15-18 age category of tournament and the Perezs placed second. In the 10-14 age category Chris and Ephrem Jones placed first and Darrell and Randall Burton placed second.

WOMEN VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS

The VAFB Lady Hawks Varsity Volleyball Team is looking for players. Women who can play volleyball at an intermediate level, and are active duty, dependent or DOD civilians on base, should contact 2nd Lt. Rich Otton at 606-6375 for more information.

SPORTS
BRIEFS

2000 INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL

National League				American League			
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
30 th SFS	7	0	1.000	533 rd TRS	8	0	1.000
392 nd TRS	6	1	.857	NRO	7	1	.875
576 th FLTS No.1	6	1	.857	30 th MSS	5	2	.714
2 nd SLS	5	2	.714	30 th CES No.2	5	3	.625
381 st TRG No.1	4	4	.500	614 th SOPS	5	3	.625
30 th CS	3	4	.333	576 th FLTS No.2	4	4	.500
30 th CES No.1	2	4	.428	381 st TRG No.2	3	5	.375
30 th CONS/LG	2	5	.286	30 th MDG	1	7	.125
30 th TRANS	1	6	.143	Det. 9	1	7	.125
576 th FLTS No.3	0	7	.000	576 th FLTS No.4	0	7	.000
As of Tuesday							